

Canberra Region Joint Organisation Education Project

End of Year Report, June 2017 – June 2018

Introduction:

Bournda Environmental Education Centre (BEEC), in partnership with the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CBRJO), is pleased to report on a successful year delivering the Waste Education Program 2017 / 2018.

This report details the activities undertaken in the 2017 / 2018 year for each of the six waste education outcomes outlined in the SERRG Regional Education Program Action Plan 2017 – 2018.



Pictured above are students and council staff from Yass Valley, Hilltops, Bega Valley Shire, Queanbeyan Palerang and Goulburn Mulwaree council areas participating in waste education activities as part of the CBRJO education program.

A major focus for the period June 2017 to June 2018 was to run waste education programs and to support waste education activities in all 8 council areas across the CBRJO. During this period the CBRJO waste education program has successfully worked with students and teachers in all of the 8 council areas. Waste audits and education programs were run in 23 schools across the 8 council areas – including both primary and high schools. Waste grants of \$500 were awarded to 6 schools with excellent waste action plans across 5 different council areas. Bournda Environmental Education Centre staff have worked and / or corresponded with staff from all of the council areas, and staff from 6 council areas have been involved with visiting and working with schools during the waste audit programs.

Two highlights of the CBRJO waste education program this year have included the increasing interest in the 'CBRJO Working with Waste' program with 21 schools across the CBRJO participating. Each of these schools have been supported by BEEC staff and council staff to create an action plan to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill from their schools. It has been fantastic to watch the students and teachers from these schools work with enthusiasm and passion to create positive changes at their schools. It has also been fantastic to see council staff going on to work in further schools after being part of the 'Working with Waste' program with BEEC. The GoMAD program for High School students was also a highlight of the CBRJO waste education program. Students from 2 council areas worked on a variety of waste related projects at their schools and came together at the end of the year for a camp at BEEC where projects were shared, and ideas for the future forged. Again the determination and energy of these students was inspiring.

Following is a breakdown of activities relating to each of the waste education outcomes outlined in the CBRJO Regional Education Program Proposal 2017 – 2018.

Waste Education Outcome 1:

Create and support events which inspire behaviours that create a waste free south east community

South East SRC Conference

Over 100 high school students from across the CBRJO council areas met together on the 21st – 24th May at Murrumbateman in Yass Valley Council area for the South East Student Representative Council conference. BEEC staff ran two sessions for students focusing on tackling the war on waste at school. Students were given the skills and knowledge to then go back into their schools and begin to create change to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. It was a great opportunity for students to share and reflect on what is happening, or not happening in their schools and to learn from the experiences of others.



GoMAD Challenge

The GoMAD challenge brings together passionate teachers and students from schools around South Eastern NSW. The program is designed to help facilitate student action / leadership teams in schools who wish to embark on a creative solution to an environmental issue. BEEC staff worked as a mentor for supporting six high schools across two different council areas. Each of these schools focused on waste related topics as their environmental issue of choice. More information about the schools and the program is detailed below (Waste Education Outcome 2).

Pambula Public waste day

Staff from BEEC attended Pambula Public School (Bega Valley Shire Council) on the 31st October 2017 to work with all the students on waste education activities for their environment week. Programs were run for all stages across the school and included activities focused on sorting waste, making compost and understanding about the problems associated with sending our waste to landfill. The school has gone on to implement a 'Trash Free Tuesday', a 'Return and Earn' program and a soft plastic collection system.

Beat Plastic Pollution – World Environment Day



Stage 2 and 3 students from a range of schools across the Bega Valley Shire Council came together for an 'Art and Action' day where they tackled the World Environment Day theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. Students discussed issues around plastic pollution and its problems and came up with positive ideas that they could implement in their homes and schools. The student's artwork was displayed at the World Environment Day dinner held in Bega, NSW on June 5th, 2018. This program was run as 'in kind' support for the CBRJO.

Queanbeyan Enviro Expo

This event has changed this year and is being run in conjunction with the Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood shows. BEEC were unable to attend these events as they are not run in school time.

Teacher workshop

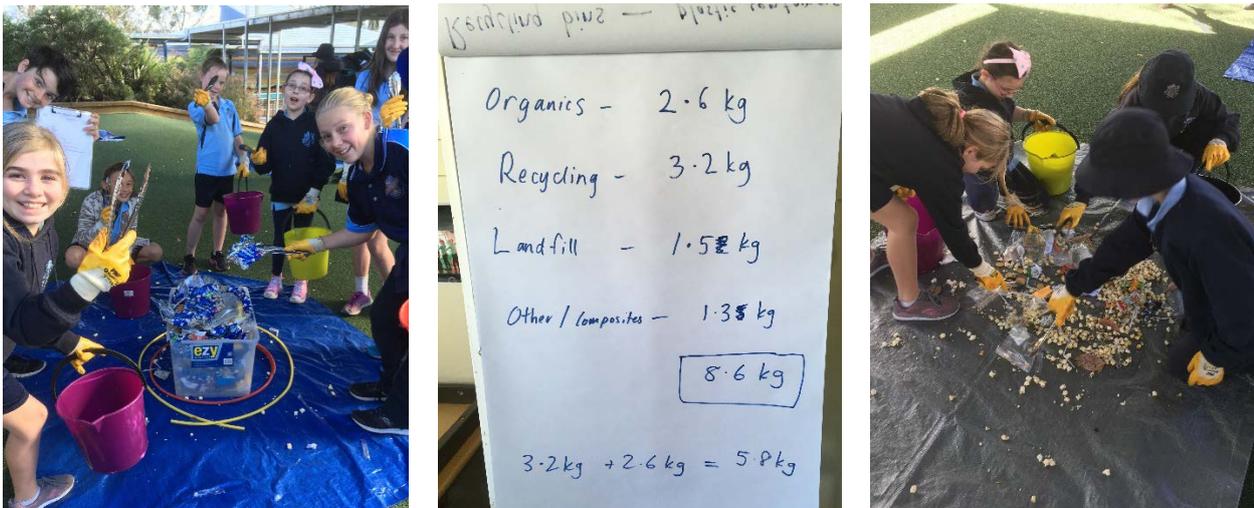
20 teachers attended a workshop held on the 17th July at the Bournda Environmental Education Centre. The workshop was advertised in the Sin Bin so as all schools across the CBRJO were welcome to attend. The focus of the teacher workshop was 'How can we tackle the War on Waste in our schools?' and covered issues such as: what are the main ingredients for success, how to run a waste audit, using the 'Working with Waste' iBook, results and action plans from others schools and making waste fun! More information about the workshop is detailed below (Waste Education Outcome 4).

Waste Education Outcome 2:

Increased resources for waste education projects available at school level

School Waste audits –

School waste audits have been very popular across the CBRJO this year. All students completing an audit have also participated in waste education activities that help students understand more about waste and why we need to reduce what our schools and homes are sending to landfill.



Pictured above are students from Pambula Public School undertaking an audit of playground rubbish bins as part of the CBRJO waste education program, and their results.

School	Date of waste audit	CBRJO local government area	Staff working with students
Queanbeyan East PS	19 th July 2017	Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Vanessa Palmer (QPRC)
Crookwell Public School	20 th July, 2017	Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Jules Donne (BEEC)
Jugiong Public School	21 st July, 2017	Hilltops Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Glen Harper (HC)
Cobargo Public School	26 th July, 2017	Bega Valley Shire Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Sam Ferrara (BVSC) Natalie Ryan (BVSC)
Bega High School	29 th August, 2017	Bega Valley Shire Council	Jules Donne (BEEC)
Boorowa Central School	7 th September, 2017	Hilltops Council	Glen Harper (HC) Kaye Keefe (HC)
Young South Public School	8 th September, 2017	Hilltops Council	Glen Harper (HC) Kaye Keefe (HC)
Pambula Public School	14 th September, 2017	Bega Valley Shire Council	Jules Donne (BEEC)

Narooma Public School	30 th October, 2017	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Jules Donne (BEEC)
Crescent School	9 th November, 2017	Goulburn / Mulwaree Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Hannah Cotton (GMC)
Goulburn West Public School	9 th November, 2017	Goulburn / Mulwaree Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Hannah Cotton (GMC)
Wollondilly Public School	10 th November, 2017	Goulburn / Mulwaree Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Hannah Cotton (GMC)
Mt Carmel School	27 th February, 2018	Yass Valley Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Carina Martin (YVC)
Yass Public School	27 th February, 2018	Yass Valley Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Carina Martin (YVC)
Berinba Public School	28 th February, 2018	Yass Valley Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Carina Martin (YVC)
Binalong Public School	28 th February, 2018	Yass Valley Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Carina Martin (YVC)
Sutton Public School	1 st March, 2018	Yass Valley Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Carina Martin (YVC)
Candelo Public School	4 th May, 2018	Bega Valley Shire Council	Jules Donne (BEEC)
Merimbula Public School	30 th May, 2018	Bega Valley Shire Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Joley Vidau (BVSC)
St. Patricks High School	4 th June, 2018	Snowy Monaro Regional Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Edwina Lowe (SMRC)
St. Bede's School	27 th June, 2018	Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Vanessa Palmer (QPRC)
St. Gregorys School	28 th June, 2018	Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Vanessa Palmer (QPRC)
Michelago Public School	29 th June, 2018	Snowy Monaro Regional Council	Jules Donne (BEEC) Belinda Ingram (SMRC)



Pictured above are students from Candelo Public School undertaking a waste audit of playground rubbish.

GoMAD –

Students and teachers from Bega and Eden High Schools (Bega Valley Shire Council) and Narooma, Moruya and Batemans Bay High Schools (Eurobodalla Council) participated in the GoMAD challenge which ran throughout 2017. BEEC and council staff supported groups of students who were working on waste related projects at their schools. All groups created a film to showcase their projects and shared them at a joint camp at BEEC in December 2017. The films can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs3sD9n_Ox6yB1w37VvPzVg/videos?view=57&flow=grid

Students from four schools attended the end of year camp and participated in a number of team building / leadership activities as well as waste education activities. Students had opportunities to share the projects they had worked on at their own schools and learn from each other's experiences. BEEC staff led a brainstorming session about 'What's next' – and students worked in school groups with their teachers to make an action plan for their school for 2018.



Pictured above are students and staff from Eurobodalla Shire and Bega Valley Shire Council schools who collected waste on a kayak trip at Bournda Lagoon as part of the GoMAD camp.

In-school waste grant program –

\$500 grant money has been awarded to five schools, and \$250 has been awarded to one school across five LGA's in 2017 – 2018:

Queanbeyan East Public School Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (\$250)

"Thank you for funding our paper recycling bins. They've gone into all classrooms and offices and they look great. The students even put signage on them." Elli Webb, P and C, Qbyn East PS

Students have begun a paper recycling program and used the grant to purchase paper recycling bins for every classroom, and the office area. Students are now separating paper from the general waste stream.

Hennessey Catholic College Hilltops Council

“My STEM class have started this term to design and plan strategies to make our College greener and sustainable.” Victor Varela-Leroy, STEM facilitator and classroom teacher, Hennessey College.

The students are working on a design project including converting waste bins to recycling bins using purpose built bin toppers. With these bins the students will be able to separate waste into recyclable materials and bottles for the ‘Return & Earn’ program.

Yass Public School Yass Valley Council

“Yass Public School currently only recycles classroom paper, which is collected and removed from the school by a member of staff. The SRC has proposed that the school implement a whole school waste sorting and removal program with the aim of reducing our landfill contribution by up to two-thirds.” Kate Barlow, classroom teacher, Yass PS.

The SRC is purchasing a variety of bins using the grant money to implement this whole school waste sorting campaign. They are also looking at re-building a compost area in the school that has been neglected so that it can take food scraps.

Wollondilly Public School Goulburn Mulwaree Council

“When we participated in the waste audit we became aware of the amount of food scraps in our bins as well as rubbish..... we can see that our food scraps going to waste bins could be managed much better.” Fiona Landford, classroom teacher, Wollondilly PS.

The students are using their grant money to purchase worm bins, compost buckets and buckets for collecting the food scraps. They are placing buckets and posters around the schools to collect food scraps which will be composted at the school, with the compost being used on the school vegetable garden.

Pambula Public School Bega Valley Shire Council

“We are initiating a ‘Trash Free Tuesday’ where students and families are encouraged to pack a zero waste lunch box.” Richard Lane, Assistant Principal, Pambula Public School.

The SRC has begun a ‘Trash Free Tuesday’ where students and families are encouraged to pack a zero waste lunch box. Weekly prizes are awarded to students who bring waste free lunches. A ‘Return and Earn’ station has been set up to collect recyclable bottles sold in the canteen and soft plastics are being collected and sent to RedCycle.

St Patricks Parish School Snowy Monaro Regional Council

“I choose this project because I was noticing so much paper, organics and recycling items going to landfill a week. Also there was so much rubbish in the playground.” Darcy Brown, Year 5 student who elected to conduct an investigation into waste at the school, St Patricks School.

Students have begun a program of both recycling and composting within the school. Sets of small classroom bins have been purchased for each classroom and a compost bin for the school garden. Student surveys have

been collected, articles have been sent home to promote a reduction in waste coming to school, and nude food days are being encouraged.

Mt Carmel School Yass Valley Council

“Our goal is to reduce the landfill (waste) coming from Mt Carmel School by turning it into liquid fertiliser”
SRC students, Mt Carmel School.

The SRC are organising a compost system for the food waste from the school – they have used the grant to purchase compost buckets to place around the school and to provide signage to support the correct separation of waste items. They have also purchased bins to collect bottles for the ‘Return & Earn’ program.

Evaluations of the Working with Waste program –

In the 2016 / 2017 year teacher evaluations were used to assess the ‘Working with Waste’ program. 100% of teachers strongly agreed that the program of activities was suitable, that the students responded positively to the activities and were engaged, that BEEC staff were well prepared and professional, that the organisation of the day ran smoothly and that all equipment was adequate. 100% of teachers recorded ‘yes’ when asked ‘Did the content of the day meet your expectations?’, ‘Did you gain information that will help you / your students back in the classroom?’ and ‘Has student knowledge increased following the visit from BEEC?’.

Comments from individual teachers included:

“Was such an amazing experience for all students. After studying sustainability it really drove home the concept”

“The program was delivered effectively and extremely interactive for our students”

“Age appropriate, interactive and effective”

“Bringing a representative from Council was a great idea”

“It will be great to get some recycling happening in our school”

“They (students) found the delivery interesting and developed their understanding of how they would be more environmentally friendly”

Implementation and review of current waste reduction programs –

Schools that have worked with BEEC on waste education programs have either implemented change to some aspect of their waste management and are now supporting programs that reduce the amount of waste to landfill from their schools or are currently working on action plans. The following schools have all been involved in a CBRJO waste education program and have been making changes to their school under the following areas:

Eden Public School/Bega Valley Shire Council – paper recycling

St Peters Anglican College/Eurobodalla Shire Council – composting

Lumen Christi Catholic College/Bega Valley Shire Council – working towards ‘plastic free’ school

Bombala High School/Snowy-Monaro Regional Council – worm farms

Monaro High School/Snowy-Monaro Regional Council – playground recycling

Cobargo Public School/Bega Valley Shire Council – recycling

Bega High School/Bega Valley Shire Council – recycling / coffee cup awareness program

Pambula Public School/Bega Valley Shire Council – waste free lunches / recycling

Moruya High School/Eurobodalla Shire Council – recycling

Batemans Bay High School/Eurobodalla Shire Council – recycling

Wollondilly Public School/Goulburn Mulwaree Council – composting / worm farms

Hennesey College/Hilltops Council - recycling

Queanbeyan East Public School/Queanbeyan Palerang Council – recycling

Yass Public School/Yass Valley Council – recycling / compost

Mt. Carmel School/Yass Valley Council – compost

Binalong Public School/Yass Valley Council – compost / recycling

Continue to develop BEEC CBRJO webpages –

BEEC has a webpage that is regularly updated with activities that are being run through the CBRJO waste education program. This can be viewed at <http://bourndaeec.nsw.edu.au/programs/learning-for-sustainability-programs/cbrjo/>

Available resources for waste education projects are published regularly in the SinBin newsletters. These newsletters are currently available on the BEEC website and are e-mailed to council staff, teachers, all schools across the CBRJO and other stakeholders. Once a CBRJO website becomes available for the CBRJO education program it will highlight these resources to teachers.

Waste Education Outcome 3:

Develop curriculum resources which have a positive impact on student learning about waste

BEEC has developed a waste education PowerPoint presentation that can be used in primary schools across the CBRJO. The presentation has been designed as a starting point for council staff when talking to a group of primary school students. It can be adapted by individual councils so as to reflect the specific items that can and can't be recycled in each area. A PDF copy has been sent to all councils and a thumb drive of the powerpoint has been made available to all councils.

The Stage 3 unit of work 'Working with Waste', designed in 2016, has been made available through the Sin Bin. The unit aims to increase awareness of the issues surrounding waste generation and disposal, to enable students to plan and implement strategies appropriate to their school to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The iBook links waste education to the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum in Geography and Science for stages 2, 3 and 4. The resource is available as a free download at the iTunes store and has been advertised in the SinBin and circulated via e-mail to teachers.

Incorporate the waste excursion guide into teaching and learning resources

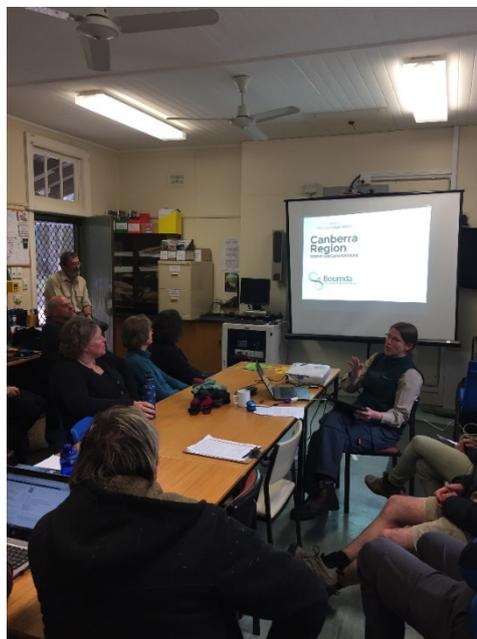
All council staff were contacted at the beginning of 2018 to find out what excursions are currently being run at waste facilities and what resources might be useful for running excursions at these locations. Responses varied from excursions having taken place in the past but not now, to no excursions run owing to safety reasons, to an interest in setting up these type of excursions in the future.

As no councils that responded appeared to be running waste facility excursions currently it seemed unnecessary to create an education resource until further interest was established.

Waste Education Outcome 4:

Teachers improve knowledge and understanding of how to effectively teach waste management issues

Teacher Workshop –



Pictured above are teachers from schools across the Bega Valley Shire Council participating in a teacher workshop led by BEEC and focusing on the CBRJO waste education program.

Day One of Term 3 started with a 'War on Waste' teacher workshop for over 20 teachers from the Bega Valley Shire Council area. Teachers from both High Schools and Primary Schools joined together to learn,

discuss and run the waste relay. Jules Donne led the discussion with a presentation titled 'How can we tackle the war on waste in our schools?' and went through all the main ingredients for success. Teachers found the workshop engaging and were inspired to take on the challenge in their schools. Two high schools in the BVSC have since participated in recycling programs and waste audits.

Promotion of teaching and learning resources with schools and councils –

Resources and waste education ideas are a common feature in the SinBin. This is distributed to all schools and councils. When new resources become available they are promoted through the SinBin and also by e-mail to relevant schools.

Waste Education Outcome 5:

Raise profile of CBRJO Education Program, objectives, events and activities

Publication of the Sin Bin –

Publication of the Sin Bin continues on a once a term basis. Editions have now been produced for each of the terms in the 2017 / 2018 year. Each edition is sent to all teachers and council staff involved in the project across the CBRJO, all schools and other stakeholders.

Editions of the Sin Bin can be currently viewed at

<http://bourndaeec.nsw.edu.au/programs/learning-for-sustainability-programs/cbrjo/>

Waste Education Outcome 6:

Communities are aware of CBRJO activities and achievements

Network activities –

Meetings, reports and correspondence are all ongoing throughout the year. BEEC staff meet regularly to discuss progress. BEEC and CBRJO staff met on 6th November 2017 to discuss the program and have had numerous phone meetings throughout Term 3 and 4, 2017 and the early stages of Term 1, 2018. For the majority of Term 1 and Term 2, 2018 there was not a CBRJO Resource Recovery Project Officer so no meetings have taken place. Prior to the CBRJO Resource Recovery Project Officer's departure, Education Group Teleconference's had been set up with the first being held on the 30th January. BEEC staff met with Waste Education subgroup on the 27th of May.

The November progress report and this final year report have now both been completed.

Correspondence between key groups is ongoing.

Materials posted on website –

The BEEC website has a page dedicated to CBRJO activities and displays the current Sin Bin editions

<http://bourndaeec.nsw.edu.au/programs/learning-for-sustainability-programs/cbrjo/>

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council also have a webpage dedicated to school programs that highlights the work of CBRJO and has links to all the Sin Bin newsletters:

<https://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/822/School-Programs>

Goulburn Mulwaree and Bega Valley Shire Council's have included information about the 'Working with Waste' program on their websites:

<https://www.goulburn.nsw.gov.au/Communications-Info/Local-schools-working-with-waste.aspx>

https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-FDE-31-24-86

After discussion with the CBRJO Resource Recovery Project Officer it was decided to not use Twitter but rather promote the use of council's individual facebook pages. This has certainly happened with most councils posting photos and stories onto facebook after 'Working with Waste' programs at schools.

Schools have also written reports in schools newsletters and local newspapers have reported on the 'Working with Waste' programs run at various schools across the CBRJO. Council staff have sent media releases to local newspapers and photos and stories have regularly appeared.



A clip from the Merimbula News Weekly outlining the 'Working with Waste' program at Merimbula Public School.